AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Page 1, please replace the paragraph [0001] with the following:

[0001] This application is a Continuation-In-Part of pending U.S. Patent application Serial No. 10/153,189, filed on May 20, 2002, entitled "Method for Sequencing Nucleic Acids By Observing The Uptake ~~Update~~ Of Nucleotides Modified With Bulky Groups," currently pending and claims priority thereof.

Page 26, under the subheading **AP Buffer:** of paragraph [0078], Example 3, please amend as follows:

- 100 mM NaCl
- 50 mM MgCl2
- 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 9.5

0.1% ~~Tween-20~~ TWEEN 20™ (known generically as Polysorbate 20)

Please replace paragraph [0107] with the following amended paragraph.

[0107] In a more specific example as illustrated in **FIG. 6**, 20-100 µl of 3 µM SH-$(CH_2)_6$ACAACAACCATCGCCC-TAMRA (SEQ ID NO:1) oligo in 1X Tris-EDTA (TE) (or 1X Phosphate Buffered Saline buffer, PBS) is incubated with the gold substrate for various times from 1 hr to overnight) depending on the surface coverage requirements. Then the substrate is rinsed 3x with 1XPBS. In order to estimate the surface coverage, the SH-oligo is displaced by using ~ 14.3 mM mercaptoethanol in buffer. The supernatant after displacement contains SH-oligo in addition to some mercaptoethanol. The fluorescence of the supernatant may be measured using a spectrophotometer.